THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) No Sir, as per National Family Health survey-II (NFHS-II) 1998-99, 49% of the population is consuming iodated salt *i.e.* salt with more than 15 parts per million, iodine content.

(b) Surveys conducted by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad in 2003, have indicated that the incidence of IDD had declined as a result of consumption of iodated salt in the country including North and North-Eastern States.

(c) Under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme the Government has been advertising the use of only iodated salt for direct human consumption to overcome the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in the country, through Doordarshan and AIR, Department of Field Publicity, Song and Drama division and DAVP.

The Union Government have laid down standards of Iodated salt under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 and Rules 1955. In order to ensure consumption of adequately iodated salt by the public, the same is being monitored by Salt Commissioner at manufacturing level. In addition, State/Union Territories, Health Directorates are also responsible for monitoring the quality of iodated salt at consumption level both through IDD Monitoring Laboratory and also Public Health Laboratory under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

Corruption in medicines purchase

1891. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have detected some fraud and corruption in procurement of medicines for a World Bank-funded health project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have blacklisted some companies as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the action plan of Government to control recurrence of such frauds in procurement of medicines henceforth?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) Just before the negotiation with World Bank for Reproductive & Child Health (RCH)—II project in April 2005, the World Bank submitted a confidential interim report prepared by its Department of Institutional Integrity to the Department of Economic Affairs containing preliminary findings of a review in regard to certain procurement irregularities under the RCH-I project. Among other things, the interim report noted that a large percentage of contracts for procurement of drugs & medicines were awarded to two pharmaceutical firms namely (i) M/s. Pure Pharma Ltd. Indore (ii) M/s. Nestor pharmaceutical, New Delhi. The Ministry examined the contracts awarded under RCH-I and found evidences that the above two firms were in collusion to win a large number of contracts.

(c) and (d) The Ministry suspected further business with the two firms till December 2006.

(e) The Ministry has established Empowered Procurement Wing (EPW) in order to consolidate, streamline, and strengthen the procurement activity and to professionalize the procurement of health sector goods. Under EPW, the Ministry has also engaged the services of a Consultant Organization to improve transparency and efficiency in the procurement of health sector goods by creating an effective system of procurement monitoring, reporting, supplier performance and complaint redressal.

Funds for expansion of health services in Madhya Pradesh

†1892. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided to the Government of Madhya Pradesh during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 for expansion of health services and construction of buildings in rural areas;

(b) the funds released by the Central Government during above period for the purchase of medicines and equipments for rural areas; and

(c) the funds provided to open trauma centres in Madhya Pradesh during the above period alongwith the names of places where trauma centres are to be opened?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.